

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2491
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
CONSTRUCTION OF HEADQUARTERS OF MEA
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Ministry of External Affairs was allotted a 7.7 acres of prime land on Maulana Azad Road in New Delhi for the construction of its headquarters some twelve years ago;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in the construction of the building; and
- (c) the time by when the building is likely to be constructed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) Yes Sir, the Ministry of External Affairs was allotted a plot of land, measuring 7.78 acres, at the junction of Janpath and Maulana Azad Road, for construction of its headquarters in 1994.
- (b) Though the land was allotted in 1994, work on the construction project could not begin in view of illegal encroachments on the plot. After prolonged litigation, vacant possession of the land was given to the Ministry following an order of the Supreme Court in 1997. A Limited Architectural Design Competition was held in the year 2000 which had to be terminated as none of the entries was found to be satisfactory. In November 2003, it was decided that the project would be entrusted to CPWD for design and execution.
- (c) The CPWD has prepared a concept design which has been approved in principle and is in architectural harmony with the other buildings on the Central Vista. The design has been submitted to the local bodies concerned for approval. Simultaneously, financial approval is being sought from competent authorities. The Ministry of External Affairs assigns a high priority to the early completion of this project. CPWD has indicated that construction of the building will be completed in forty months after receipt of all approvals. It would be the effort of the Ministry to ensure that the project is completed by CPWD on schedule once the necessary approvals have been obtained.